

PR01: 568

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 2001

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**GOVERNOR DAVIS SUPPORTS McCain-BAYH BILL TO
EXPAND AMERICORPS**

Call to Service Act of 2001 Will Recruit Members to Provide Public Safety

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gray Davis today announced his support for the “Call to Service Act of 2001,” proposed by Senators John McCain (R-Arizona) and Evan Bayh (D-Indiana) that would expand the AmeriCorps program for the purpose of increasing homeland security and other public safety programs.

“Now is the ideal time to volunteer to serve your country and state,” Gov. Davis said. “I support AmeriCorps work. I believe in expanding the program to take advantage of the renewed spirit of patriotism.”

The Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV), which funds AmeriCorps members in service programs throughout California, expects to expand its public safety programs if this legislation passes. AmeriCorps is the domestic Peace Corps which provides education awards to volunteers.

The Call to Service Act of 2001, S.1792, was introduced on December 10, 2001 and aims to make national service available to every young person. As written, the bill will require GO SERV and other state agencies to determine new ways of using national service programs for emergency management. This legislation will revamp national service programs and expand the opportunities for Americans to serve by increasing the number of AmeriCorps members. Currently, more than 50,000 individuals serve in AmeriCorps. The legislation expands the number of AmeriCorps members to 250,000 by 2010, which will allow more communities to reap the benefits of service.

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